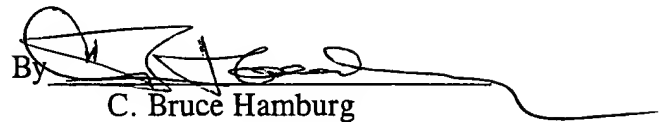


**REMARKS**

This merely makes formal corrections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan and Hamburg LLP

By   
C. Bruce Hamburg  
Reg. No. 22,389  
Attorney for Applicants

122 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10168  
(212) 986-2340

enc: Appendix

*aa*

## APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN  
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

6. (Twice amended) A process for producing a maraging steel comprising the steps of[;

melting a steel having:

a chemical composition consisting essentially of, in % by

weight:

C: 0.01% or less,

Ni: 8-19%,

Co: 8-20%,

Mo: 2-9%,

Ti: 0.1-2%,

Al: 0.15% or less,

N: 0.003% or less,

O: 0.0015% or less,

and the balance Fe; and

a nonmetallic inclusion having a size of 30  $\mu\text{m}$  or less when the size of the nonmetallic inclusion is expressed by the diameter of a corresponding circle taking the circumferential length of the

nonmetallic inclusion to be the circumference of the corresponding circle] the chemical composition as described in claim 3;

casting the molten steel to obtain a steel ingot of a taper  $T_p = (D_1 - D_2) \times 100/H$  of 5.0-25.0%, a height-diameter ratio  $R_h = H/D$  of 1.0-3.0, and a flatness ratio  $B = W_1/W_2$  of 1.5 or less, taking the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the top of the steel ingot as  $D_1$ , the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the bottom of the steel ingot as  $D_2$ , the height of the steel ingot as  $H$ , the diameter of a corresponding circle with a circumference corresponding to the circumferential length of the steel ingot at a location of  $H/2$  as  $D$ , and the length of the long side and length of the short side of the steel ingot at a location of  $H/2$  as  $W_1$  and  $W_2$ , respectively;

forging the steel ingot at a forging ratio of at least 4 for a forged piece;

then submitting to soaking treatment by keeping the forged piece one or more times in a temperature range of 1100-1280°C for a total hot holding time of 10-100 hours; and

then plastic working the forged piece to make the size of a nonmetallic inclusion in the steel be 30  $\mu\text{m}$  or less when the size of the nonmetallic inclusion is expressed by the diameter of a corresponding circle taking the circumferential length of the nonmetallic inclusion to be the circumference of the corresponding circle.